



# Youth Academy builds trust early

KCPD is starting the recruitment process much earlier: with middle schoolers.

"We knew if we could gain a friend in middle school, we'd have a friend for life," Deputy Chief Karl Oakman said.

Deputy Chief Oakman worked with Captain Darrell Bergquist and Sergeant Joe Bediako of the Employment Unit in addition to several other department members to create the KCPD Youth Academy for children ages 12 to 15.

"What we've found in recruiting is that we always have some kids that for some reason don't want to go into policing, and it's usually misinformation from friends and relatives," Deputy Chief Oakman said. "We thought, let's get them a first-hand look at the police department and all the fun, exciting jobs here, and show them officers are good people who are part of your community. And we tell them we want them to be part of the police family."

Deputy Chief Oakman said the 12-to-15-year-old age group was unique to target because most other police cadet and explorer programs don't start until the late teens. Members of the Employment Unit believed most youth's minds are made up about police by that point.

The Youth Academy is having three sessions: at East Patrol, South Patrol and the Police Academy. The curriculum is much like that of the Citizens Police Academy, but condensed. The class meets from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. every day for a week. Students learn about everything from forensic science at the Crime Lab to how 911 calls are handled to the Canine Unit. They also get to participate in police training for things like building searches and handcuffing.

To encourage participation, meals are provided. One local business owner – of the Pizza Hut at 3116 Prospect – heard about the Youth

Academy and liked the idea of it so much that he donated food for lunch on the last day.

Employment Unit officers spent much of April and May going out to the public middle and charter schools in the city recruiting for the

Youth Academy. A majority of those they visited were in the urban core. The first session met at East Patrol from June 11 to 15 with 27 participants. The other two sessions will meet in July and are full with 40 participants.

Calvin Lucas, 14, goes to school at KIPP Endeavor Academy. He said he wanted to come to the KCPD Youth Academy because he thought it was a chance to communicate with police officers and see what it's like to be one. He attended the inaugural East Patrol session.

"It was very interesting," Lucas said. "It was a good opportunity for kids

who want to be police officers to be encouraged about their decision and be in law enforcement. I learned a lot more than I thought I would about law enforcement."

The Academy training was his favorite part, he said.

The group opened up over the course of the week as they learned more about KCPD.

"On the first day, Captain Bergquist asked the kids how many wanted to be police officers," Deputy Chief Oakman said. "Two raised their hand. Then he asked them the next day, and it was five. On Friday, it was almost the entire class."



**Captain Darrell Bergquist and Deputy Chief Karl Oakman play a little keep-away with graduates of the inaugural KCPD Youth Academy at East Patrol Division.**

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# Rescued girl becomes police officer

A girl once rescued by a KCPD officer from abuse and neglect is now a police officer who hopes to help others in the same way.

For nearly 20 years, Klynn (pronounced Kay-lynn) Scales searched for the officer who used to come by her home every day near the old East Patrol Division at 27<sup>th</sup> and Van Brunt. That officer took time out of every shift to see how then 9-year-old Scales and her brothers were doing. They lived with a drug-addicted mother and experienced neglect and violence. Scales stole food so they could eat, but she usually gave it to her brothers. Her mother's boyfriend sexually assaulted her. When the officer hadn't seen her for a while, he got worried. He didn't know Scales had been sick for a month and had great difficulty breathing with no medical attention. In the haze of her illness, Scales remembered that officer scooping her out of her home like an angel. She was taken to the hospital, where she was diagnosed with a case of malnutrition that had almost turned fatal. She and her brothers were put in state custody.

Scales reached out to KCPD in late 2015 trying to find that officer. Her quest eventually made it to Sergeant Jennifer Jones, who had investigated Scales' sexual assault case as a detective. It took her months, but Sergeant Jones found out the officer was Jeff Colvin, now a sergeant at North Patrol Division. Scales, who now lives in Texas, flew to Kansas City in June 2016 to reunite with Colvin and Jones, which was covered in the [June 2016](#) issue of the Informant. At that time, Scales told them she wanted to be a police officer just like them. They promised her that if she made it, they'd come to her academy graduation.

That's exactly what they did on May 24, when Officer Klynn Scales became an official member of the Galveston, Texas, Police Department. Scales asked Sergeant Colvin to pin her badge on at the ceremony.

"If it wasn't for Jeff Colvin when I was a kid, I wouldn't be here," she said. "And if it was not for Jennifer, I never would have had

that closure for what happened to me."

Her abuser was convicted and imprisoned.

But like so many things in Klynn Scales' life, getting to that graduation day didn't come easily. She had been working in a doctor's office and applied four different times to various agencies. She didn't finish one written test on time. On another, she'd had recent surgery and failed the physical test. On another physical test, she couldn't quite scale the wall. So she trained harder and studied more.

"That girl has 'don't-quit' like nobody I've ever seen," Sergeant Jones said.

But getting hired by a police department was only half the battle. She underwent military-style physical training and an injury at Galveston's 6-week in-house academy and had to confront some of her past demons.

"On the first day in boxing training, I froze up when I got punched in the face because of all the abuse I had," she said. "My defense

mechanism was to freeze up. They were yelling at me to hit back. When that happened, I realized I can fight back. After that, I was fine."

Scales then spent more than five months at the state-level police academy. And when graduation day came, Sergeants Colvin and Jones came just as they'd promised. They'd stayed in touch with Scales ever since reuniting with her two years ago and encouraged her throughout the Academy. Along the way, she'd told a few people about what Sergeant Colvin had done for her.

"As we were walking up to the auditorium, officers from all over the area came up to us and said, 'You must be Jeff,' and shook hands with him," Sergeant Jones said. "They were so excited to see him. It was really cool."

Sergeant Colvin brought his wife and daughter along, too.

"My wife really thought it would be something important for our daughter to see," Sergeant Colvin said. "I think they were proud of me and Klynn both, knowing her story and everything she persevered through to get to this point."

After the ceremony, Scales presented Sergeant Jones with a plaque inscribed with both of their badges that stated, "A promise made, a promise kept, walking in the footsteps of a true hero."

For Sergeant Colvin, the plaque she had made said, "A child cried out for help, you answered. Same child 20 years later reached out to find her hero, you answered. Now she is an officer and pinned by her hero because you answered."

"Honestly this isn't what I was thinking about when I met her 20 years ago," Sergeant Colvin said. "You don't know what kind of impact you're going to have on a person."

Sergeants Colvin and Jones believe Scales' life experiences will make her a better officer because she will have a real empathy for people she encounters who have undergone great hardship. But those experiences also make her tough and relentless. Now-Officer Scales says she hopes to get involved in community mentorship programs so she can impact a child's life just like Sergeant Colvin impacted hers.



**Sgts. Jeff Colvin and Jennifer Jones attended the police academy graduation of Klynn Scales in Texas, whom Sgt. Colvin rescued as a girl and whose abuser Sgt. Jones got convicted. At the bottom are some of Scales' physical training exercises in her academy.**

# KC Chiefs players get to know KCPD

The Kansas City Chiefs' Director of Player Engagement, B.J. Stabler, and Player Engagement Coordinator Ramzee Robinson have been on a mission to improve relationships between the team and the Kansas City Missouri Police Department. They reached out to the department to coordinate events that would help team members learn about what KCPD officers do and for players and officers to get to know each other during National Police Week in May.

Stabler and Robinson arranged for six members of the Chiefs' defensive line to visit the Special Operations Division on May 15. The players learned all about units like Canine, Bomb and Arson and Tactical Teams. They also presented an autographed Chiefs football to Officer Antoney Perez for all the work he does with urban-core youth through the Police Athletic League. Both the players and officers thoroughly enjoyed the visit, and the players gained a new respect for the work officers do and the decisions they



**Chiefs players did football drills with officers' children during a barbecue at the Police Athletic League Center on May 19.**

have to make in high-stakes situations.

Then four days later, Stabler and Robinson worked with police to host a barbecue for police officers and their families at the Police Athletic League Center. City Councilman Scott Wagner's office also assisted with the event. More than a dozen Chiefs players came, including some high profile members like Tyreek Hill and Daniel Sorenson. Some of the players brought their own families. The players put on a football clinic for officers' children, and everyone enjoyed barbecue together and got to know each other. Media was not told about the event because the

Chiefs wanted it simply to be a night to honor Kansas City Missouri police officers.

This likely won't be the end of positive encounters between the Chiefs and KCPD. Stabler and Robinson already are coordinating future partnership opportunities and events to further build the relationship between the Chiefs and the Police Department.

## Officially Speaking

### Awards

#### Special Unit Citation

North Property Crimes Section  
Shoal Creek Patrol Division Proactive Team

#### Life-Saving Award

Sergeant Randal Anderson and Officers Charles Owen & Kelly Sapp  
Officers Daniel Bartlett, Kelsie McLees & Adison Waterman  
Officer Mark Ising  
Officers Christopher Lear & Kelsey Wingate

#### Meritorious Service Awards

Forensic Specialists Michelle Nordyke & Melissa Steinke  
Supervisor Jeane Fracassa  
Sergeant Robert Gibbs  
Sergeant Sean Hess  
Sergeant Jeffery Hughley  
Sergeant Mark Mosbacher  
Sergeant Matt Neal  
Officer Bobbie King  
Officer Ann Murphy

#### Certificates of Commendation

Dispatcher Carrie Brown

Officer Hollie Brannen  
Officer Sean Brockhoff  
Sergeant Barb Eckert and Detectives Alane Booth, Chason Crowell, Daniel Frazier & Hobart Price  
Officers Jeremy Gragg & Brent Zimmerman

#### Distinguished Service Medal

Sergeant Chase Moraczewski and Officers Nicole Anderson & Titus Golden

#### Medal of Valor

Sergeants John Bryant & Roy Murry and Officers Matthew Brummett & Charles Prichard

### 25-Year Rings

Sergeant Randal Anderson  
Officer Donald Angle  
Ret. Master Detective Brian Bell  
Detective Kevin Boehm  
Officer Richard Burnette  
Officer Ross Davis  
Major Matthew "Tye" Grant  
Master Patrol Officer Kevin Hulen  
Captain Keith Kirchhoff

Detective Patrick McKenzie  
Project Coordinator Valerie Nutt  
Detective Ricky Ropka  
Sergeant Brad Stott  
Sergeant Bob Strawn  
Sergeant Darrin Wilson

### Retirements

Master Detective Brian Bell  
Major Richard Scott Glaeser  
Supervisor Donna Kinder

### Obituaries

Retired Officer Roy Combs  
Retired Sergeant Robert Dodds, Jr.  
Retired Officer Steven Duke  
Retired Officer Robert Frey  
Retired Detective Marion McMillan

**The mission of the Kansas City Missouri Police Department is to protect and serve with professionalism, honor and integrity.**



## Upcoming Events

July 9-13  
Youth Academy at  
Police Academy

July 10  
Computer Unit 50th  
Anniversary

July 10  
Board of Police  
Commissioners Meeting

July 21  
Movie Night at South  
Patrol

July 23-27  
Youth Academy at  
South Patrol

The Informant is a  
publication of KCPD's  
Media Unit  
(816) 234-5170  
[www.kcpd.org](http://www.kcpd.org)

Calling all Computer Unit/Information  
Services employees past and present!



You're invited to the 50th Anniversary  
Celebration of Computers at KCPD!  
When: 9:30 a.m. July 10  
Where: Headquarters, 1125 Locust,  
Community Room

Kansas City Missouri Police Department  
1125 Locust  
Kansas City, MO 64106